

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8376

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 3900

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: US VIEWS ON ROK FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES

REF: STATE 118917

SUMMARY:

AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED WITH FONMIN KIM USG VIEWS ON ROK FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES. KIM WELCOMED VIEWS AND DISCUSSED CURRENT DRAFT OF PRESIDENT PARK' S PROPOSED JUNE 23 PUBLIC STATEMENT. SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE ON US VIEWS AND DRAFT PUBLIC STATEMENT WAS USEFUL AND WILL CONTINUE MORNING JUNE 20. KIM HAS ALSO PROMISED TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH CLOSEST ALLIES SOONEST.

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL, I IMMEDIATELY DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WITH FONMIN KIM U. S. VIEWS CONTAINED PARA 1, REFTEL (WITH EXCEPTION FYI PORTION). KIM WELCOMED OUR VIEWS WHICH TX SAID REFLECTED USG' S SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM AND ITS IMPORTANCE.
2. KIM IN PARTICULAR NOTED MY COMMENTS WITH REGARD UNC, UNCURK, AND U. S. FORCE LEVELS. TO COMPARE OUR VIEWS,

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HE THEN READ TO ME ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF CURRENT DRAFT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT PARK ON NEW ROK FOREIGN POLICY. SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT WAS ENUMERATION OF SEVEN POLICY PRINCIPLES. THEY ARE:

A. PEACEFUL UNIFICATION IS SUPRREME TASK, DEMANDING EVERY ENDEAVOR.

B. PEACE MUST BE MAINTAINED ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA;

C. SOUTH- NORTH DIALOGUE SHOULD CONTINUE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE JULY 4 COMMUNIQUE.

D. ROKG WOULD NOT OPPOSE NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

E. IF MAJORITY OF UN MEMBERS WISH, ROKG WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ROK ADMISSION TO UN, ALONG WITH NORTH KOREA, PROVIDED EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION IS NOT PREJUDICED.

F. ROKG WOULD " OPEN ITS DOOR WIDE" TO ALL COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND CALLS ON COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT IDEOLOGY TO " OPEN THEIR DOORS".

G. THE KEYNOTE OF ROK POLICY IS PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS-- THE ROKG REAFFIRMS ITS EXISTING TIES WITH FRIENDLY NATIONS.

3. OTHER SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE WAS POORLY WORDED PASSAGE NOTING THAT THOSE POLICY PRINCIPLES RELATING TO NORTH KOREA ARE INTERIM MEASURES DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD TO UNIFICATION AND THAT THOSE MEASURES DID NOT MEAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA AS A STATE. I NOTED THAT SUCH A QUALIFICATION WAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO MISINTERPRETATION INTERNATIONALLY AND QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WAS NECESSARY IN PRESIDENT'S POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT. AFTER EXPLAINING THAT STATEMENT WAS INSERTED FOR " DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION", KIM PROMISED TO RECONSIDER NEED FOR ITBX AS WELL AS LESS STRIDENT WORDING.

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4. IN SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE, I SAID CONTENT OF DRAFT STATEMENT WAS AGREEABLE AS FAR AS IT WENT, BUT THERE WERE THREE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE OMISSIONS:

A. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF ROK POSITION ON DEBATE AT THIS YEAR'S UNGA, OR ON NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION.

B. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF UNCURK, AND

C. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF EXAMINING FUTURE OF UNC.

5. DRAWING ON US VIEWS CONTAINED REFTTEL, I PRESENTED ARGUMENTS FOR INCLUSION OF ALL THREE POINTS. I EMPHASIZED PARTICULARLY THAT THEIR OMISSION WOULD ONLY CREATE UN-NECESSARY QUESTIONS ABOUT ROK POLICY; LESSEN IMPACT OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT; AND LEAVE INITIATIVE TO NORTH KOREANS IN EXPLOITING THESE OMISSIONS.

6. KIM QUICKLY AGREED TO INSERTING STATEMENT THAT ROKG HAS NO OBJECTION TO UN DEBATE WITH NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION. THIS WAS ALWAYS ROKG PLAN, HE SAID. WITH REGARD TO UNCURK AND UNC, KIM SAID, THERE IS NO PROBLEM IN POLICY TERMS. ROKG IS WILLING TO ACCEPT DISSOLUTION OF UNCURK. THEY WILL WELCOME DISCUSSION WITH US ON DETAILS OF UNC TERMINATION. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SHOW OUR HAND COMPLETELY AT THIS SGE PARTICULARLY WHEN WE HAVE NOT CONSULTED SUFFICIENTLY WITH EACH OTHER, OR OUR ALLIES, ON TACTICS AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

7. KIM SAID HE WOULD, HOWEVER, RECOMMEND THAT A STATEMENT ON UNGA DEBATE AND UNCURK BE WORDED ALONG FOLLOWING GENERAL LINES: IF MAJORITY OF UN MEMBERS WISH, ROKG DOES NOT OBJECT TO A UNGA DEBATE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF NORTH KOREA ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, INCLUDING THE FUTURE OF UNCURK.

8. KIM REMAINED FIRM IN HIS VIEW THAT PRESIDENT PARK SHOULD HOLD BACK FROM SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE FUTURE OF UNC UNTIL WE ARE FURTHER ALONG IN OUR OWN DISCUSSIONS ON TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAUGE
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OTHER SIDE'S REACTION TO ROK FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE. HE SAID THEY PREFERRED TO HOLD SOMETHING BACK FOR BARGAINING WITH COMMUNIST SIDE, RATHER THAN " GIVE EVERYTHING AWAY AT THE BEGINNING."

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8377

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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9. THERE WERE ALSO OTHER EDITORIAL AND STYLIYTIC PROBLEMS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXT WHICH I NOTED BUT ARE NOT WORTH REPORTING.

10. KIM ASKED MY VIEWS ON TIMING OF CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES. I URGED SOONEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATION WITH OUR CLOSEST ALLIES - AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, AND UK. KIM AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD HOPE TO BEGIN CONSULTATION PROCESS WITH THEM TOMORROW AFTERNOON (JUNE 20).

11. KIM SAID THAT PRESIDENT PARK INTENDS TO READ FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT TO PRESS ON JUNE 23. IT IS NOW TENTATIVELY PLANNED THAT HE WILL FOLLOW UP BY CONVENING NATIONALPNDSEMBLY ON JUNE 25 TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE. KIM ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE HI MEET JUNE 23 DEADLINE FOR INITIAL STATEMENT, OR WHETHER IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER MOVING DATE BACK TO JUNE 25. I TOLD HIM, THAT THE EARLIER THE BETTER, IS MY VIEW, IF RPT IF WE HAVE REACHED FULL UNDERSTANDING ON SUBSTANTIVE POINTS WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN PRESIDENT PARK' S STATEMENT.

12. KIM PROMISED TO DISCUSS OUR VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT PARK
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THIS EVENING; REWORK DRAFT STATEMENT; AND HAVE COPY READY TOMORROW MORNING FOR DISCUSSION WITH ME AND FOR TRANSMISSION TO DEPARTMENT.

13. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WE CAN ACHIEVE FORMULATION RE

ROK POSITION ON UNGA DEBATE, UNCURK AND NORTH KOREAN
PARTICIPATION IN DEBATE ADEQUATE FOR OUR PURPOSES. DO NOT
SEE ANY UTILITY IN FURTHER PRESSING FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC
REFERENCE IN PRESIDENT PARK' S STATEMENT TO EXAMINING FUTURE
OF UNC AS SUGGESTED REFTAY. KIM' S OBJECTION IS TACTICAL
BUT FIRMLY HELD. HE AGREES WITH OUR VIEWS ON EXAMINING
TERMINATION OF UNC BUT BELIEVES THAT IT IS TOO EARLY
TO SURFACE PUBLICLY THAT BARGAINING COUNTER.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL03900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XGDS-2
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730624/aaaajhle.tel
Line Count: 237
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 118917
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; RELEASED <06-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <07-Nov-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980217
Subject: US VIEWS ON ROK FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES
TAGS: PFOR, KS
To: CINCPAC
COMUSJ
COMUSK
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
TOKYO
USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005